

HELL IN TEXAS.

A Tribute to Brownsville— Poem by Sixth Cavalry Trooper.

The shooting up of this place has had one effect which is pleasing to the people of the town. It has placed Brownsville upon the map.

Brownsville has been well known to the army ever since the Mexican War. In the earlier days, and, in fact, until about three years ago, Ft. Brown was one of the most desolate army posts in the United States.

It was situated 160 miles from the nearest railroad which led to the outside world, and the surrounding country was a wilderness of cacti and sand. Conditions have been transformed by the building of a railroad to Brownsville from the North and the establishment of irrigation enterprises. It is now rapidly becoming a garden spot.

Many years ago, through a private belonging to the United States Sixth Cavalry, while stationed at Ft. Brown wrote a poem entitled "Hell in Texas." This poem was printed on slips on the old army press at Ft. Brown and attained a wide private circulation among the soldiers on the Texas frontier. A copy of it was recently resurrected here. It reads as follows:

HELL IN TEXAS.

The devil in hell, we're told was chained,
And a thousand years he there remained;
He never complained, nor did he groan,
But determined to start a hell of his own,
Where he could torment the souls of men,
Without being chained in a prison pen.

So he asked the Lord if he had on hand
Anything left when he made the land.

The Lord said "Yes; I had plenty on hand,
But I left it down on the Rio Grande;
The fact is, old boy, the stuff is so poor,
I didn't think you could use it in hell any more."

But the devil went down to look at the truck,
And said if it came as a gift he was stuck;
For after examining it carefully and well,
He concluded the place was too dry for a hell.

So in order to get it off of his hands,
The Lord promised the devil to water the lands;
For he had some water—or rather some dregs,
A regular cathartic, and smelled like bad eggs.

Hence the deal was closed and deed was given,
And the Lord went back to his home in heaven.
And the devil then said: "I have all that is needed
To make a good hell," and hence he succeeded.

He began to put thorns on all of the trees,
And mixed up the sand with millions of fleas,
And scattered tarantulas lazing all the roads;
Put thorns on the cactus and horns on the toads.

He lengthened the horns of the Texas steers,
And put an addition on the rabbits' ears;
He put a little devil in the bronco steed,
And poisoned the feet of the centipede.

The rattlesnake bites you, the scorpion stings;
The mosquito delights you with buzzing wings,
The sand burrs prevail and so do the ants,
And those who sit down need half soles on their pants.

The devil then said that throughout the land
He'd manage to keep up the devil's own brand,
And all would be mavericks unless they bore
Marks of scratches and bites and thorns by the score.

The heat in the summer is a hundred and ten,
Too hot for the devil and too hot for the men.
The wild boar roams through the black chaparral,
It's a hell of a place he has for a hell.

The red pepper grows on the banks of the brook;
The Mexicans use it in all that they cook.
Just dine with a "Greaser," and then you will shout:
"I've a hell on the inside as well as

the out."
—Brownsville (Tex.) Cor. New York Sun.

EDMUND KEAN.

To See Him Act Was Like Reading Shakespeare by Lightning.

Before the third century after the birth of Shakespeare had reached its first quarter there was born in England to a stage carpenter and a strolling actor a child destined to grapple with the poet's highest thought and interpret it with a vividness that to this day stands unrivaled. Coleridge's terse comment, that to see him act was reading Shakespeare by lightning, reveals him with the fullness of a volume. Edmund Kean, along with most people early trained to an art, had little if any education of the schools. He was when a boy provided with instruction by some benevolent people whom his smartness and beauty attracted, but he rebelled against the tasks of study and went to sea. But life there was too rough for his fine nature. He returned to England and at the age of seven began the study of Shakespeare's characters with his Uncle Moses. This he continued with an actress named Tidswell, who taught him, besides, as well as she knew, the principles of her art.

At an early age he had the credit of originality so surprising as even, then to challenge the supremacy of Philip Kemble. At fourteen he played Hamlet. King George had him recite at Windsor castle, and it is said this incident led some gentlemen to send him to Eton, but there is no record of it. At twenty he was in a provincial troop, a member of which he married, and for six years thereafter, until his glorious night at Drury Lane, his life was one of hardship, struggle, obscurity, but, thanks to the faith in himself, not hopeless. His London debut was made at twenty-eight. He had fought for it hard and long and would then have missed it but for the falling reputation of the theater. London debuts in first roles are not easy for provincial actors, and none knew better how hard they are to get than Henry Irving. Kean seems to have been at his full splendor and made a hit. After that his habits were altogether prejudicial to the refinement of taste or the acquisition of knowledge.

A TREE OF ILL REPUTE.

The Fresh Juice of the Upas Acts as a Deadly Poison.

An evil reputation has long been borne by the upas tree, Antiaris toxicaria, which grows in Borneo and other East Indian islands. It is still a common belief that birds flying within the influence of its poisonous vapors instantly perish and that it is fatal for animals or men to rest beneath its shade. It resembles certain rhubarb plants (like the poison ivy) in emitting a volatile substance which affects the skins of certain susceptible persons, though others are unaffected. The sap is very poisonous and is the chief substance used by the Dyaks of Borneo for poisoning the tips of their darts.

In this process an incision is made in the bark of the tree and the milky exudation collected on a palm leaf and dried first in the sun and then over a fire until a thick brown mass is left. In this state it can be kept without deteriorating, and when required for use it is made into a thin paste with the juice of "tuba" root, which is used to stupefy fish, or with tobacco or lemon juice, and the ends of the darts dipped into the mixture and dried. These darts are made from the middle stem of the palm leaf and are about six or eight inches in length and of about the thickness of a knitting needle.

They are used with a wooden sumptan, or blowpipe, which is about seven or eight feet in length and has an internal diameter of about one-quarter inch. A bird struck by one of these little darts is instantly killed, and a pig dies in about twenty minutes. The fresh juice of the upas tree, whether swallowed or injected into the blood, acts as a violent poison, causing convulsions and death.—Chicago News.

Lucene Nests.

By breaking open rotten logs one can find in midwinter the grubs or larvae of many of the wood boring beetles, and beneath logs and stones near the margins of ponds and brooks hordes of the maggots or larvae of certain kinds of flies may often be found huddled together in great masses. The larvae of a few butterflies also live over winter beneath chips or bunches of leaves near the roots of their food plant or in webs of their own construction, which are woven on the stems close to the buds whose expanding leaves will furnish them their first meal in spring.

He Didn't Hush.

"Mamma," queried little Willie, "what is 'hush'?"

"Why do you ask, dear?" said his mother.

"Because," explained the observing urchin, "when I asked sister what made her hair all mussed after her beau was here this afternoon she said, 'Hush, dear.'"

—Chicago News.

The Caller.

"Mary, has any one called while I was out?"

"Yes, ma'am; Mr. Biggs was here."

"Mr. Biggs? I don't recall the name."

"No, ma'am; he called to see me, ma'am."—Strand Magazine.

Corrected.

Teacher—What are parallel lines? Micky Mulberry, what are you grinning at? Micky Mulberry—Scuse me, Miss Sharpe, but any loidy might make de same mistake. Yer means parallel bars, don't yer?—Puck.

PUBLIC NOTICE.

To the people of Hartford.

All persons in Hartford must hold themselves responsible for any weakness or suffering caused from old age, chronic coughs or colds, bronchitis, weak lungs, run-down conditions, stomach troubles, nervousness or poor blood when we are willing to sell them the real cod liver preparation, Vinol, and return their money if it does not benefit.

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WORK ON PANAMA CANAL

Contract May Not be Let at all Is White House Statement.

Washington, Jan. 31.—The following statement was made public at the White House last night by Secretary Lobb:

"Reports in the papers seem to indicate a belief that the canal contract has been conditionally awarded to Mr. Oliver. This is not so. No decision has been made even that the contract will be awarded to any of the bidders. Mr. Oliver's bid was so hopelessly defective that it could not be even considered, and time was given him to complete it in shape that will enable it to receive consideration. If it is put into such shape, it will be considered together with the bid already made by the Gillespie-McArthur combination, which may itself be altered, and then whichever bid after the most careful examination seems most advantageous may be taken, or both bids rejected and the canal be constructed under the direct supervision of the Government. In such cases the Government would, wherever it chose use contractors simply as agents. The real object in contracting the work is to have assembled a large number of the best specialists in each class of work, and the prime consideration will be the ability and fitness shown in a variety of directions by the men making the bid. The President and the Commission would not even consider a bid of merely one or two men. The work is already going well. Over half a million cubic yards were taken out of the Culebra cut in January, and the amount being taken out is steadily increasing."

It is still possible that the Administration may determine to dig the Panama canal, placing the work in the hands of Chief Engineer Stevens, instead of having it done under contract. The final decision will rest with the President and the Secretary of War and will depend on their opinions as to whether the Administration is justified in accepting the bid to do it by contract.

Unusual.

She—She is always talking about her mince pies. Did you ever see anything unusual in them?

He—Yes. I saw a shoe button in one once!—Yonkers Statesman.

The Consequence.

"Is it true that Waldorf died poor?"

"Yes. You see, he lost his health chasing after fortune and then lost his fortune chasing after health."—Lippincott's Magazine.

—Lippincott's Magazine.

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A MYSTERIOUS CARD.

Mark Twain's Odd Request and How Mrs. Cleveland Received It.

When I was leaving Hartford for Washington upon one occasion my wife said: "I have written a small warning and put it in a pocket of your dress vest. When you are dressing to go to the authors' reception at the White House you will naturally put your fingers in your vest pocket, according to your custom, and you will find that little note there. Read it carefully and do as it tells you. I cannot be with you, and so I delegate my sentry duties to this little note. If I should give you the warning by word of mouth now it would pass from your head and be forgotten in a few minutes."

It was President Cleveland's first term. I had never seen his wife, the young, the beautiful, the good hearted, the sympathetic, the fascinating. Sure enough, just as I had finished dressing to go to the White House, I found that little note, which I had long ago forgotten. It was a grave little note, a serious little note, like its writer, but it made me laugh. Livy's gentle gravities often produced that effect upon me where the expert humorist's best joke would have failed, for I do not laugh easily.

When we reached the White House and I was shaking hands with the president he started to say something, but I interrupted him and said:

"If your excellency will excuse me I will come back in a moment, but now I have a very important matter to attend to, and it must be attended to at once."

I turned to Mrs. Cleveland, the young, the beautiful, the fascinating, and gave her my card, on the back of which I had written "He didn't," and I asked her to sign her name below those words.

She said: "He didn't? He didn't what?"

"Oh," I said, "never mind! We cannot stop to discuss that now. This is urgent. Won't you please sign your name?" I handed her a fountain pen.

"Why," she said, "I cannot commit myself in that way. Who is it that didn't? And what is it that he didn't?"

"Oh," I said, "time is flying, flying, flying! Won't you take me out of my distress and sign your name to it? It's all right. I give you my word it's all right."

She looked nonplused, but hesitatingly and mechanically she took the pen and said:

"I will sign it. I will take the risk. But you must tell me all about it right afterward, so that you can be arrested before you get out of the house in case there should be anything criminal about this."

Then she signed, and I handed her Mrs. Clemens' note, which was very brief, very simple and to the point. It said, "Don't wear your arctics in the White House." It made her shout, and at my request she summoned a messenger, and we sent that card at once to the mail on its way to Mrs. Clemens in Hartford.—Mark Twain's Autobiography in North American Review.

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COUNTY COURT.—W. B. Taylor, Judge; W. S. Tinsley, Clerk; E. M. Woodward, Attorney. Court convenes first Monday in each month.

QUARTERLY COURT.—Begins third Monday in January, April, July and October.

COURT OF CLAIMS.—Convenes second Tuesday in October and Tuesday after the first Monday in January.

CONSTABLES.—J. B. Dennis, Hartford District, Prentiss; Ky. N. R. Baize, Fordsville, Ky. J. I. Clark, Rockport, Ky.; R. M. Young, Cromwell District, Baizestown, Ky.; H. C. Acton, Dundee, Ky.; Sulphur Springs Magisterial District.

OTHER COUNTY OFFICERS.—Nathaniel Moxley, Surveyor; Shreve, S. W. Leach, Assessor; Rob Roy; James Dewese, School Superintendent; Hartford; Jerome Allen, Coroner, Jingo.

JUSTICE'S COURTS.

W. P. MILLER, Cromwell—March 26, June 25, September 25 and December 25.

W. S. DEAN, Dundee—March 27, June 26, September 26 and December 27.

W. R. EDGE, Fordsville—March 28, June 27, September 27 and December 28.

B. S. CHAMBERLAIN, Bada—March 29, June 28, September 28 and December 29.

HARRISON AUSTIN, Beaver Dam—March 24, June 23, September 23 and December 24.

S. H. RENDER, Centertown—March 30, June 29, September 29 and December 30.

J. H. MILLER, Rockport—March 31, June 30, September 30 and December 31.

HARTFORD POLICE COURT.

R. R. Wedding, Judge; J. S. Glenn, City Attorney; Seth Moseley, Marshal. Court convenes second Monday in each month.

TOWN COUNCIL—HARTFORD.

James H. Williams, Mayor; Councilmen: Dr. J. W. Taylor, Wm. M. Fair, R. E. Lee, Simonman, Dr. E. B. Pendleton, W. J. Bean and A. D. White; C. M. Crowe, Clerk; John T. Moore, Treasurer. Council meets first Wednesday night in each month.

SCHOOL TRUSTEES—HARTFORD.

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RELIGIOUS SERVICES.

M. E. CHURCH, SOUTH.—Services second Sunday at night and third Sunday morning and night. Prayer service every Wednesday evening. Rev. J. A. Lewis, Pastor.

BAPTIST CHURCH.—Services second and fourth Sunday in each month. Prayer meeting every Thursday night. Rev. A. E. Smith, Pastor.

C. P. CHURCH.—Services first Sunday in each month, morning and night. Rev. J. D. Harned, pastor.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH.—Services at Masonic Hall first Sunday in each month, morning and night. Eld. W. B. Wright, Pastor. Sunday School and communion service every Sunday morning.

SECRECY SOCIETIES.

Hartford Lodge No. 675, F. & A. Masons, meets first Monday night in each month.

Rough River Lodge No. 110, Knights of Pythias, meets every Tuesday night.

Sunshine Hive No. 42, Ladies of the Macabees, meets second and fourth Friday nights in each month.

Knights of the Macabees, Hartford Tent No. 99, meets every Thursday night.

Modern Woodmen of America, Camp No. 11089, meets every other Wednesday night.

A. O. U. W. meets first and third Friday night in each month.

Freston Morton Post No. 4, G. A. R., holds regular meetings at Hartford on Saturday before the first Sunday in each month.

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